

MPs avoid injury in mine strike

Story and photo by

Spc. Jim Wagner

109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Four 118th Military Police Company (Airborne) soldiers narrowly avoided serious injury Monday night when the armored High Mobility Multi-wheeled Vehicle they were patrolling in struck an anti-tank landmine, an incident that could have turned out much worse.

The three MPs and one combat medic from the 118th were on an area security patrol several miles outside Kandahar Air Field when they ran over a TC-6 anti-tank landmine, launching the armored vehicle four meters in the air and directly over a second nearby TC-6 mine rigged with a flechette round. The second mine, fortunately, wasn't triggered.

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Exterior view of an armored High Mobility Multi-wheeled Vehicle after running over a TC-6 anti-tank mine. A 118th Military Police patrol ran over the mine Monday evening while on patrol in the Kandahar area, about three kilometers from Kandahar Air Field. No one was injured in the blast.

Afghanistan graduates second protective service class

By U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sgt. Amy L. Forsythe
CJCMOTF PAO

Kabul, Afghanistan — The second graduating class of Afghanistan's Presidential Protective Service Academy received their diplomas March 20 at the Anti-Terrorism Assistance compound just north of Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul.

Maj. Gen. Karl Eikenberry from the Office of Military Cooperation congratulated each new Special Agent as they received their diplomas. There were 70 graduates who successfully completed the seven-week course, which was created expe-

ditiously in response to the assassination attempt on President Hamid Karzai in Kandahar in August.

The U.S. State Department took the lead in establishing the course curriculum with the goal to "create a professional special agent service with the exclusive mission of protecting the president of Afghanistan," said program manager Hal Poff.

As a former Navy SEAL, Poff, 39, from Myrtle Beach, SC., and about two dozen other retired and former U.S. special operations personnel have worked together in producing a training program that is best suited for this difficult mission.

As cadre, they oversee the

recruitment, screening and training of the candidates. The course is broken into two phases: Phase I focuses on personal presentation, cultural awareness, wear and care of their uniforms and team building exercises. Phase II consists of the ATA's VIP Protection Training, which is divided into three categories: weapons handling, driving techniques and security tactics.

"We felt it was important to start with the basics of any typical military training, such as hygiene and team building. We also incorporated cultural awareness classes to ensure they are prepared to travel to western locations with the president," Poff

said.

All of the candidates are volunteers and must pass a rigorous screening process which includes a literacy test, medical examination, oral interview, background security check and spatial and visualization aptitude tests. The candidate's ages range from early 20's to late 30's. Many of them have a military background or experience as a personal body guard, Poff added.

Funded by the State Department, all of the candidates approved and accepted for training receive roughly \$2,500 in uniforms and equipment. Their gear issue includes: desert camou-

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. soldiers take cover behind vehicles as they work to secure the Baghdad airport on Friday.

Bombs light up Baghdad

NEAR BAGHDAD, Iraq — Huge explosions and multiple flashes of light were heard and seen over mostly blacked-out Baghdad early Saturday, hours after hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Iraqis fled the Iraqi capital as the U.S.-led coalition closed in on the city and seized its airport.

Explosions were so intense that parts of the city were lit up by massive fireballs. At times, the explosions jolted the city one after another for minutes.

Much of the fighting on the ground centered around Baghdad's international airport, secured by coalition troops a day earlier in a bloody assault that left hundreds of Iraqi soldiers dead.

"The coalition has a substantial number of forces on the ground at Baghdad International Airport," Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal said at a Pentagon briefing. "We are still sporadically engaging forces on the airport grounds and clearing buildings there."

A source in Baghdad told CNN that members of the Republican Guard — Iraq's top military force — were heading toward the airport to bolster the Iraqi troops.

Tape shows Saddam in crowd

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A videotape aired Friday by Lebanese Broadcasting Corp. showed a man who appeared to be Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein walking the streets of Baghdad amid an excited, cheering crowd.

The broadcast marked the second time Friday that footage had been shown of Saddam. Earlier, in another prerecorded appearance on Iraqi television, Saddam exhorted his followers to fight the U.S.-led in-

vasion "with what you have available."

The Iraqi leader was the target of the first U.S. airstrike, and top U.S. officials have repeatedly questioned whether he survived the raid.

But Baghdad's public relations salvos may be having more of an effect on world opinion than on the Iraqi people because television broadcasts in Iraq are "sporadic," according to the Pentagon.

"Sometimes it's on, sometimes it's off, so I have no idea what they're (the Iraqi people are) actually seeing," Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said Friday.

Postwar Iraq plan

WASHINGTON — The postwar, post-Saddam Interim Iraqi Authority envisioned by the White House would include a mix of Iraqi dissidents and exiles, Kurds and other ethnic groups from within Iraq, senior administration officials told CNN.

The officials said at no point would Iraq be solely administered by exiled Iraqis, who have been angling for postwar power.

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice planned to offer a sketch of the administration's planning at a Friday briefing.

The issue will be at the center of talks next week between President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Rice planned to make clear that while the Iraqi National Congress led by Ahmed Chalabi would have a role in postwar Iraq, it would be just one of many groups involved, one senior official said.

"There will be no President Chalabi," said one U.S. official familiar with President Bush's thinking on the issue. "And it is time he understands that."

Separating friendlies from hostiles

CENTRAL IRAQ — U.S. Marine Cpl. Jim Tomlin has gotten to know the subtle signs that might indicate if an Iraqi man dressed as a civilian might be a soldier or Fedayeen Saddam member. But the sign he saw Friday was anything but subtle.

Tomlin, from Minneapolis, Minnesota, learned Arabic in a year and a half of training

at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. He was helping C Company, a light armored reconnaissance unit with the 2nd Marine Division, interview Iraqis suspected of being possible paramilitary fighters about 60 miles south of Baghdad.

"What you're saying is you want to kill me," Tomlin said to the man.

The Iraqi nodded.

At that point, a gunnery sergeant grabbed the man, threw him to the floor and bound his hands behind his back with plastic handcuffs.

He has interviewed hundreds of Iraqis for possible military ties over the past two weeks, but said this was the first time he had been threatened in that way.

About 15 of the men on the bus sported suspicious tattoos, including an Arabic character corresponding to an "F" with wings sprouting from it — indicating the recipient was a member of the Fedayeen Saddam.

Tattoos are becoming indicators of military ties for paramilitary groups like the Fedayeen or Iraqi troops who don civilian clothes to blend in. They generally do not travel with weapons.

He also looks for military haircuts, identification cards, and the condition of a suspect's feet and his shoes.

"If his feet are in good condition, there's a good chance they've been wearing good shoes or military boots," Tomlin said. "If their feet are beat up and they're wearing sandals, they could be farmers."

Military man Brooks steps up

CNN — Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks must know his audience wants to see someone else — they have made their angst quite clear — but Brooks has kept his cool.

At U.S. Central Command in Qatar, the soft-spoken Brooks has handled the daily press conferences and quickly become the region's most visible American military spokesman.

Reporters there have openly asked to hear instead from U.S. top commander Gen. Tommy Franks, but Brooks has continued to lead the briefings.

T-rats or T-bones, in Gardez you never know



Sgt. Keith Langford, cook, 503rd Maintenance Company, 264th Logistical Task Force, grills some T-bone steaks to be served with chicken and shrimp in the first barbecue many Gardez troops have had since their arrival.

Story and photo by
Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

GARDEZ, Afghanistan – Troops deployed in a combat-zone expect to eat their fair share of Meals Ready to Eat and T-rations. However, after eating them three times a day for months on end, not eating at all may appear to be a better option.

This was the situation when Sgt. Keith Langford, cook, 503rd Maintenance Company, 264th Logistical Task Force arrived in Gardez.

“Beef stew and chili were on the menu practically every night for months and the cooking equipment was very primitive,” said Langford. “It was getting to the point that troops were so sick of the same stuff that they would not eat at all. This was bad not only for morale but for their health.”

According to Langford, the problem wasn’t due to lack of food or culinary skill,

but to the remote location of the Gardez base camp.

“The problem was that this camp is in the middle of nowhere and we received all of our supplies from rotary wing or convoy,” said Langford. “Due to weather, combat and mechanical problems, the re-supply helicopters that were supposed to come in at least twice a week, could only make it once or sometimes not at all.”

Another problem was the constant shortage of items in the re-supply inventory, due to other hands reaching them first.

“Our re-supply went through a lot of hands before it reached us and still does,” said Langford. “People from other camps were constantly taking food and other things they were not authorized to take and leaving us with whatever was left.”

Finally, Langford grew tired of his troops always getting “the short end of

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MINE, from Page A1 —

Though the Army has written off the armored HMMWV as a complete loss, the four occupants – Sgt. Brian Githens, team leader; Sgt. Shawn Brown, combat medic; Pfc. David Templeton, .50-caliber gunner; and Pfc. Justin Tester, driver – walked away with minor cuts and bruises.

“We were just driving along (the road) and it happened so fast, we didn’t know what happened,” Tester said.

Unsure whether they were under ambush and hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, or hit by a land mine, the team quickly scrambled down a ditch off the road while the other two vehicles in the patrol provided front and rear perimeter defense over the wrecked vehicle, launching a parachute flare and white star cluster to see if the mine strike

was the opening move in an ambush.

“We just stood by and waited for movement with the rest of the patrol,” Templeton said. “We were all deafened.”

Githen’s team was in the second vehicle in a three-team security convoy. Covering 20-30 miles a day, sometimes twice or three times a day, the patrols are meant to keep a secure buffer zone around the base housing Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps service members.

According to Templeton, the convoy had driven by the site of the two land mines as recently as an hour and a half prior. But because of the heavily-rutted roads, the convoy missed the mines on the way out, and the first vehicle in the convoy missed them on the way back.

“The roads have been traveled so much, it was impossible

to follow directly behind the vehicle in front of you.

Unknown at the time immediately following the first mine strike was the existence of the second land mine, some six feet away from the first mine. This second mine was rigged by anti-coalition forces with an anti-personnel flechette round, which contain hundreds of little steel darts. Where anti-tank mines are designed to knock out tank tracks or penetrate armored hulls, flechettes are singularly made to penetrate body armor and Kevlar helmets.

According to Staff Sgt. Baylin Oswalt, the 731st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company team leader dispatched to the site, it’s likely the second mine wouldn’t have succeeded where the first mine failed, though there would have been a lot more damage.

“Would it have penetrated?

I don’t think so,” he said. “The flechettes would have damaged the exterior more, but the mine probably wouldn’t have penetrated the armor.”

The first land mine, located six feet away from the second one, left a crater 32 inches in diameter and two feet deep. When the HMMWV was thrown in the air, it landed straddling the second, rigged, mine. It was blown up in-place by the EOD team.

“At the time, our adrenaline was running so fast that we weren’t worried,” Githen said of their reactions immediately after the mine strike. Brown agreed, saying they were cracking jokes at the time.

“Yeah, I told Tester that my wife was going to cuss him out for his driving,” Templeton said.

None of the four were hospitalized after the mine strike, and all reported back to duty two days later.

PPSA, from Page A1

flage utility uniforms, desert jungle boots, two tailored suits and a radio. Also included in their issued equipment are their body armor and their firearms, an M-4 and a Glock-19 sidearm.

Candidates receive milestone monetary compensation as they progress throughout the course equaling about \$300 US dollars a month. "Compared to the average pay for Afghans, about \$50 a month, these guys really understand the significance of what they are doing and are taking it very seriously," added Poff.

The graduation ceremony highlighted the accomplishments of two graduates, one was recognized as the best marksman or "Top Gun," and the other was awarded for his exceptional physical fitness performance. Once the all the graduates were dismissed they rushed to the cadre to take pictures and shake their hands in gratitude for providing them an opportunity of a lifetime. "This is the best training I've received and I'm so glad to be a part of the future of Afghanistan," one special agent said exuberantly.

In addition to the extensive hands-on training, the cadre developed the "Special Agent Creed" to ensure each agent develops national patriotism and loyalty to the office of the presidency vice an individual or faction within a geographic region which has plagued much of the Afghan population.

Now that the candidates have completed the seven-week course they will be inte-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Amy L. Forsythe, CJCMTF PAO

The PPSA candidates graduated at the ATA compound just outside the capital city of Kabul. Each student received about \$2,500 in equipment and uniforms to include two tailored suits. They wore suits for the graduation ceremony as a symbol of professionalism and uniformity.

grated into the Presidential Protective Service located at the Presidential Palace and will be assigned missions according to his schedule.

The State Department, cadre and special agents all agree and believe that the future of Afghanistan relies on national government stability and their duty to ensure that the President remains safe and free to travel about the country and abroad.

The cadre of the Presidential Protective Service Academy will continue training new special agents as directed by the State Department by providing follow-on and sustainment training, said Poff.



Maj. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, from the Office of Military Cooperation, presented each candidate with a certificate of completion.



The PPSA cadre, all former special operations service members, look on as the second class of President Karzai's "Special Agents" receive their diplomas. The cadre act as independent contractors to the Department of State and most have been in Afghanistan since late 2002.



A special agent stands next to his bed at the ATA compound. Each candidate has a bed and wall locker to store his gear.

FREEDOM'S VOICES

We fight for protestors' rights

Just my Opinion

Master Sgt. Pamela Smith
CTF-82 PAO

I want to protest the war protestors. I have the right to do that because I am a soldier and I have fought for American's rights to march, rally and protest. My father fought for that right during the 50's and 60's, and my grandfather fought for that right in WWII.

I recently came across a photo of war protestors on the web that both angered and hurt me. In the photo, American protestors wore black ski masks and proudly displayed a sign that said, "We support our troops when they shoot their officers."

For the past 18 years I have lived by the laws of the military. I am a mother of two and have endured the pain that separation from both my young children and my spouse brings.

I committed myself when I stood in the recruiting station and repeated my oath of enlistment, "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will obey the orders of the president of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me..."

Those simple words held more meaning than an 18-year-old farmer's daughter could know at the time. But I would learn

what they meant and they would be engraved on my heart and would become a part of me.

Over the years I have traveled to Honduras, where I witnessed the ultimate in poverty, and to Berlin, Germany, where I had the privilege of seeing democracy at its greatest when the Berlin Wall came down and the people of East Berlin had their first taste of freedom.

Now in Bagram, Afghanistan, I see a country of people who, just like you and I, want nothing more than to raise their families and live their lives. These beautiful people have endured decades of war and oppression. Most have lost loved ones to war. Most live without the comforts of electricity, running water or daily meals.

As my brothers and sisters in arms make their way to the Iraqi capital, I pray that they will be safe and victorious. As a soldier, one of the most painful things is knowing that a casualty assistance officer will have to make that heart-wrenching trip to the family's home to let them know that their son/daughter/father/mother/sister or brother has paid the ultimate price for freedom.

No one wants war; least of all the warrior who may be called to make that ultimate sacrifice. Every day we prepare for combat but pray for peace.

Unfortunately the right decision is not always the most popular decision.

But we, America's servicemen and

See **PROTEST**, Page A6

STREET TALK

What is your goal for next year?



"I want to be a good father to my new daughter."

Capt. Grier Martin
Office of the SJA
CJTF-180



"I want to deploy to other countries to help other people."

Pfc. Belinda Gonzalez
A Det., 126th Finance Bn.
Fort Bragg, N.C.



"I want to go wherever my country needs me."

Sgt. Lawrence Ford
A Det., 126th Finance Bn.
Fort Bragg, N.C.



"I want to make staff sergeant and go home to be an instructor at Fort Jackson (S.C.)."

Sgt. William Cox
Admin. NCO
HHC, CJTF-180

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SJA gives power of attorney advice

By Spc. James Merrill
Legal Assistance NCO, CJTF-180

While deployed, a power of attorney can be a very important document. Many soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines may need to get a power of attorney so someone back in the States can handle day to day affairs while they are deployed.

There are two different types of power of attorney: A special power of attorney, which is only good for what is specified, and a general power of attorney, which allows the person to do any thing that the servicemember could legally do.

Give a GPOA to someone who can be

trusted. A GPOA gives the person broad powers to do everything.

For example, that person can purchase items on credit obligating the servicemember to pay for them, and sell property. A GPOA can be a very dangerous document. The person holding the GPOA has a lot of power.

A SPOA is usually recommended over a GPOA because limits can be set. For example, the SPOA can be prepared to buy or sell real estate, purchase or sell a car, handle finances, clear or accept quarters, or file taxes.

Whether a GPOA or SPOA is chosen, the power of attorney should never be made permanent or indefinite. The best course of action is to set a date for the power of attor-

ney to expire. The shorter the duration of the power of attorney, the safer. The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate recommends the duration of the power of attorney should never exceed one year from the effective date.

Canceling a power of attorney is simple and can be done before the expiration date by filing a revocation of power of attorney.

The most effective and safest way to terminate a power of attorney is to get back the original and all copies of the power of attorney and destroy them.

For more information, contact the Legal Assistance Office located in Motel 6, or call 318-231-4603.

COOKS, from Page A3

the stick" and decided to get personally involved.

"I travel by convoy to Bagram and Kabul weekly to ensure that the soldiers here are getting what they are authorized," said Langford. "After weeks of constant persistence and getting higher ranking people involved, we are finally starting to get the things we have been missing out on."

Now the MRE and Utilized Group Ration boxes are sitting on the shelves a little bit longer, and troops are starting to eat the good stuff.

"Lately I've been serving things like hot dogs, hamburgers and fried chicken which I have received positive feedback on," said Langford. "In our latest re-supply shipment this past week, we received numerous boxes of name brand ice cream bars and steaks and shrimp which I'm planning on using in a barbecue this week."

Another asset that makes Langford's duty as a cook a lot easier is the new dining facility made possible by the Provincial Reconstruction Team.

"This facility is much larger with more space and equipment to cook and freeze perishable food items," said Langford. "The only things missing now are some ovens so the guys can have pizza and a

movie on Friday nights just like at home.

Even though Langford's life as a cook has become easier with the new DFAC, it is still a tough job to do. Langford is one of two cooks for over 120 troops who work 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

According to Langford, he doesn't mind the hard work nor does he want any special favors. The troops smiling faces behind a plate of hot food are good enough for him.

"It's very rare we get to see a barbecue out here," said Spc. Rodolfo DeLaCruz, civil affairs specialist, 450th CA Battalion, Riverdale, Md. "Some steak and shrimp would be more than a change of pace, it would be heavenly."

"It's nice to get a good cook out here who cares about the soldiers and what they want," said Lt. Col. Christopher Allen, commander, PRT. "Some barbecued steak and shrimp would be a real treat out here."

Langford said some hot chow is the least he can do for Gardez troops.

"Gardez is still a very dangerous area and one of the few places in Afghanistan where fighting still occurs daily," said Langford. "The 82nd (Airborne Division) guys risk their lives on a daily basis to protect us. They do all the fighting and the dying, the least I can do is give them a good meal to come back to."

PROTEST, from Page A5

women, are proud to serve.

We proudly stand behind our Code Of Conduct, which states, "I am an American soldier fighting in the armed forces, which guards my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in its defense."

Our country asked, "Whom shall I send?" and hundreds of thousands of American military men and women stepped forward and said, "Send me."

So here's my message to the war protestors. Think before you speak. Think before you carry that hurtful sign. Think about the impact your words and actions may have.

I'm not saying you have to support the war. Why not extend the energy used to protest to support the great men and women who are willing to give their lives for their country and for you?

So you are free to protest, just remember who is fighting for your right to do it.

"Freedom is regarded very highly by those who prepare to defend it. For if it were not for those who defend our freedoms, there would surely be none." — *unknown*

Entertainment

April 5, 2003

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

Combat medics: stabilize, care for casualties

Story and photo by

Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Watching HBO's 2001 miniseries, "Band of Brothers", the combat medic, runs towards the echoing of someone yelling "Medic...medic!" during the battle of Bastogne in World War II. He is close to combat exhaustion with only a limited stash of basic supplies. His face and hands, smeared with fresh blood, he hurriedly runs from casualty to casualty. He administers morphine to gun shot wounds and shrapnel-covered legs.

Although today's combat medics never experienced what the medics lived during the winter of 1944, they do deal with the hardships of modern war.

"By far, this place has more trauma than any other place I have been," said Pfc. Christopher Russell, combat medic, 602nd Area Support Medical Company, Fort Bragg, N.C. Russell has been deployed for more than six months now and previously was in Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

The nine-person combat medic team's main job here is to stabilize a patient until they get them to the hospital to see a doctor.



Combat medics, Spc. Mario Gonzalez, left, 48th Combat Support Hospital and Pfc. Christopher Russell, 602nd Area Support Medical Company, Fort Bragg, N.C. demonstrate what they would do in the event of a casualty pick up here; retrieving a litter and supplies from one of their two field ambulances.

The medics have to administer IVs and control bleeding in a bumpy ambulance down uneven Disney Drive. The majority of their patients are Afghans.

"Most patients we get stepped on landmines," said Russell.

Afghans constantly scavenge for metal, which is precious to them because of its monetary value, said combat medic, Spc. Mario Gonzalez, 48th Combat Support Hos-

See **MEDICS**, Page B3

AAFES personnel deploy to care for soldiers

By Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Most people think deployments are only for servicemembers, but some civilians have the opportunity to deploy and care for these servicemembers.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service personnel do just this.

Jim Kiehl, quartermaster and receiving manager, has been an AAFES employee for four months with a one year contract. He is a retired first sergeant who after retirement temporarily joined the AAFES staff to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

"When I looked on internet for a job, it had deployment manager

listed. They were looking for prior military who could deploy to remote sites and handle the conditions, so I figured I could get a job and still take care of the soldiers, even though I am retired," said Kiehl. "I've been an NCO for over 15 years so it's in my blood."

Kiehl thinks being part of AAFES is beneficial to the other staff.

"It made a difference to separate myself as a civilian and not a soldier, but the experience comes in handy, like when the sirens go off. (The AAFES staff) have a tendency, if there is no one around who knows what to do, they won't do anything," Kiehl said

He makes sure the rest of the staff take the appropriate action.

The other AAFES staff are here for all the right reasons, accord-

See **AAFES**, Page B3

Chaplain's corner

By Chap. (Maj.) Marvin Luckie
CTF-82 Chaplain

When victorious nations' armies return home from battlefields abroad, among the men and women who unload at the airports and sea docks are soldiers who ran in battle, who cowered while their brothers and sisters in arms fought on, who turned their backs in panic when they could have been heroic. Are these soldiers winners? In the strategic sense they are. They are citizens of the victorious nation. Regardless of their conduct on the battlefield these soldiers share in the overall victory; they are victors by association.

But also among the disembarking troops are the soldiers who stood firm though they wanted to run, who laid their lives on the line for their fellow soldiers, though they did not want to die, who pressed on though they were weary and wanted to quit. These are the soldiers who won the tactical victories. These are the heroes.

The strategic victory of the angelic conflict was won by the power of Jesus Christ on the cross. Tactical victory in the day-to-day conflict that will continue until His return is won by the power of Jesus Christ in individual believers.

God gave to everyone of us the invitation to partake of His victory, to become heroes in the spiritual conflict. The day will come when you will stand face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have said no to His offer, you will have no one to blame but yourself.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (I Cor. 15: 56-57)

A 1,000 years before Paul penned this victory cry, another champion of faith had understood the same truth. "*The battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands*" (I Sam. 17:47) young David cried out to the enemy. God's victory is always a gift. Paul is giving here a shout of exaltation in spiritual victory, and is acknowledging that his victory is not because of anything he has done but because of the grace of God. In most translations, this verse begins,



Chap. (Maj.) Marvin Luckie

"Thanks be to God; but the Greek says, "*To God the grace.*" This is a dative of source that attributes to God the authorship of all grace.

The word translated "gives" is *didomi*, meaning to give in grace. What God offers cannot be earned or deserved; it is a gift and can only be received. The present participle refers to constant supply, that never runs dry.

God has given us and continues to give us grace every moment, every second, every breath, every heart beat of our lives.

What God gives in grace is *nikao*, a military term for victory won on the battlefield. Three principles come out this verse:

1. God alone gives us grace. There is only one place you will ever find grace and that is from God.

2. Grace alone gives us victory. No matter how much we try, how great our personal talents, or skills, or capabilities, we will never win a victory in life without grace.

3. Victory alone gives Christ honor.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters in Christ, *stand firm* (Gal 5:1 & Eph. 6: 10-14) hold your ground on the battlefield and remember that your service to the Lord is never useless, never in vain. It has been my honor to stand in your ranks.

Music Notes

Linkin Park make Meteoric debut on charts

MTV — If Linkin Park felt in limbo while writing "Somewhere I Belong," those feelings must have subsided by now, as they prepare to take their place at the top of next week's *Billboard* 200 albums chart.

The rap-rockers' second LP, *Meteora*, sold more than 810,000 copies in its first week, according to SoundScan figures released Wednesday. By comparison, their slow-burning debut, *Hybrid Theory*, which wound up being the best-selling LP of 2001, took more than 12 weeks to reach that mark. The band's remix LP, *Reanimation*, got there

in just under nine weeks last summer.

Avril, Limp Bizkit, Korn, Sum 41 set for 'mtvICON: Metallica'

MTV — Avril Lavigne, Korn, Limp Bizkit and Sum 41 are the first batch of those slated to pay tribute to Metallica in "mtvICON: Metallica," the third installment in MTV's annual series.

The artists will perform Metallica covers before an audience on May 3 in Los Angeles for the taped 90-minute special, which will air May 6 at 9 p.m. ET/PT, according to a network spokesperson. Metallica — singer James Hetfield, drummer Lars Ulrich, guitarist Kirk Hammett and new bassist Robert Trujillo — will cap off the concert with a performance themselves.

Queen Latifah in talks for 'Barbershop 2' cameo, spinoff

MTV — Ice Cube's "Barbershop" was a huge success, but hey, women need haircuts too. That's why Queen Latifah's opening up the "Beauty Shop" next door.

MGM wants Latifah to produce and star in a spinoff of "Barbershop" and make an appearance in "Barbershop 2," alongside Cube, Eve and the rest of the cast. Last year's hit flick about a struggling Chicago parlor took in \$75 million. The plan is to have Latifah make a cameo in the sequel as a beauty shop owner whose business is next door, setting the stage for a separate movie that would be developed at the same time. Latifah is currently in negotiations for both films, according to an MGM representative.

AAFES, from Page B1 —

ing to Kiehl.

"We have our own mission here. I'd say 98 percent of the people deploy to take care of the soldiers, airmen and Marines — not just for the money," said Kiehl. "They truly believe customers and soldiers first. They are all there for the right reasons."

George Kane, Bagram PX assistant manager, has been with AAFES for 13 years and is here for one year.

"It's an honor to serve in a foreign country providing services to our troops.

"The circumstances that brought us here weren't good, but our fight for freedom for Afghanistan and what the soldiers are doing to give them their freedom makes it worth it. I enjoy being here to support the troops that are doing this for our country and for (the Afghans)," said Kane.

Kane volunteered, as all de-



Photo by Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

"I wanted to do my part for my country and our soldiers," said George Kane, Post Exchange assistant manager.

ployed AAFES personnel, to said Kane.
serve his country.

"I wanted to do my part for Kane plans to continue to serve,
my country and our soldiers," but not here.

"I volunteered for Iraq, whenever we move in there. This store here is already established; it will be running itself. I'd like to move on to a different area and help troops there because they are going to need us soon.

"I would like to be involved in building another new site," said Kane.

Maria Schizas-Price, PX manager, has been an AAFES employee for 22 years and will be here one year.

"(I volunteered to deploy because of) the troops, our customers. I just wanted to help," said Schizas-Price.

Schizas-Price feels deploying has been the greatest part of her career.

"I feel great (about deploying). This is the best thing I've done in my career. I think I make a difference out here," said Schizas-Price. "It's important to feel that way. I think I make a difference in the quality of life for our troops."

MEDICS, from Page B1 —

pital here. Landmines are made out of metal.

"We get lots of kids. You feel so bad for (them). You want to do the best you can to help them," said Russell.

While the Americans are constantly working to inform Afghans about the danger of landmines, incidents still occur.

One time a kid brought home a landmine. The landmine eventually set off and killed eight people, said Gonzalez.

Another time the medics had to pick up casualties at checkpoint 1A on eight separate incidents in one day. This is the most injuries the team had to see in 24 hours, said Gonzalez. All of the incidents dealt with Afghans stepping on land mines.

"We're lucky," said Gonzalez when the team doesn't receive calls to pick someone up.

There is not only stress of rushing a victim to the hospital, but other hurdles are in-

volved in being a medic here.

Lack of communication of events and ambulances without sirens create stress as well.

"There were times the (military police) didn't know," said Russell about a few events when he was retrieving a casualty at one of the gates.

Right now, the team has to honk their horn for vehicles to get out of the way.

Currently the team is working on these issues by coordinating with the MPs and also by working on getting sirens for their ambulances.

This will help the experienced crew work more efficiently.

"There is no ego involved," said Russell. "Everyone knows what they need to do."

Gonzalez, who was an Emergency Medical Technician in New York prior to joining the Army, responded to the World Trade Center, Sept. 11.

He said the experience helped make his

decision to join the military as a combat medic.

Both Gonzalez and Russell are titled Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, but are skilled in and work at level EMT-Paramedic. This skill enables them to administer IVs and perform jobs that a regular EMT-B couldn't do.

The two are aspiring physician's assistants. With all the experience and training they are getting, it may not be hard for them to achieve.

"It definitely lets you decide if you want to stay in the medical field," said Russell.

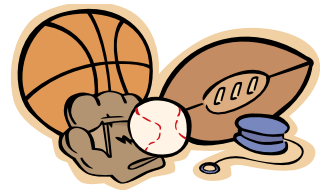
The team here has a definite sense of camaraderie.

"Everyone gets along. It's a good environment," said Gonzalez of the combat medic team here.

"They force us to know what we're doing. We have ample enough time to learn," said Russell. "That's the thing about the medical field. You can't learn enough."

Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Sammy Sosa becomes the 18th player to hit 500 homers.

Sosa becomes 18th player to hit 500 HRs

CINCINNATI — Sammy Sosa became the 18th player to hit 500 career homers, connecting for a solo shot Friday night in the Cincinnati Reds' new ballpark.

After getting hit by a pitch, striking out and flying out, Sosa lined a 1-2 pitch from reliever Scott Sullivan into the seats in right field, touching off a standing ovation as he rounded the bases.

He raised his arms in celebration and gave his trademark home run hop as soon as the ball left the bat and headed for history. He then dropped his head, circled the bases and raised both index fingers as he touched home.

His mother, wife, brother and four close family friends accompanied him from New York, where he barely missed hitting No. 500 against the Mets.

Sosa could be the first of four players to reach the milestone this year. Texas' Rafael Palmeiro has 491 homers, Los Angeles' Fred McGriff has 478 and Cincinnati's Ken Griffey Jr. has 469.

After pregame batting practice, Sosa said it hadn't been difficult waiting all winter and the first three games of the season stuck on 499.

"I'm the type of person that knows how to deal with myself," he said. "It's one homer. It's just a matter of time, a matter of one pitch."

After once again failing to hit one off starter Danny Graves, he got that pitch from Sullivan, a sidearm thrower who now has served up four of Sosa's 500.

Sosa is a dozen homers short of former Cub Ernie Banks, who finished tied with Eddie Matthews at 14th on the list. Mel Ott had 511, and Eddie Murray is next ahead of Sosa with 504.

Cone pitches five solid innings for victory

NEW YORK — David Cone turned back the clock and the surprising Expos, pitching five impressive innings in his first game since 2001 and leading the New York Mets over Montreal 4-0 on a cold, miserable Friday night.

At age 40, Cone's comeback start was everything he and the

Mets could've hoped for. Throwing every sort of breaking ball from all different angles, he held the Expos to two singles — both by pitcher Tomo Ohka — while striking out five and walking three.

The Expos came into Shea Stadium after outscoring Atlanta 17-2 in a season-opening three-game sweep. But Cone made Montreal look feeble, the same way he did on July 18, 1999, when he pitched a perfect game against the Expos while with the New York Yankees.

Cone showed he remembered his other skills, too, singling in his first at-bat and later sliding into second base on a force play.

A sparse but spirited crowd far short of the announced 18,040 sat through tough conditions. It was 37 degrees at gametime, with 14 mph winds blowing a heavy mist across the diamond.

Cone (1-0) was always a favorite at Shea, and his rooters saw him earn his 194th career victory and first since Oct. 6, 2001, for the Boston Red Sox in Cal Ripken's final game before retirement.

Prominent among the fans were his Coneheads, the kooky group that used to wear flesh-colored cones — inspired by the "Saturday Night Live" skit — when he pitched. About 50 of the old members were in the upper deck behind the plate, along with same "Cone Co'ner" sign they sported in 1988.

"We're not kids anymore," 33-year-old Cliff Seltzer said. "This is 20 pounds and a kid later, but it's the same group, so it's a lot of fun."

MRI shows Jeter will not need surgery

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Derek Jeter and the New York Yankees might have caught a big break: The All-Star shortstop probably won't need surgery.

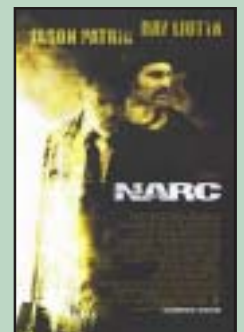
Team doctors said Friday that Jeter's injury should be treated "conservatively" instead of with an operation that could have side-

See **SPORTS**, Page B5

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1430Z at the Dragon Palace:
Talent Show/Dance night. Bring
your talent or come to watch.

Tomorrow's movie will be
"NARC."



SPORTS, from Page B4

lined the heart and soul of the Yankees for most of the season.

Instead, Jeter could be back in about a month. He will get a second opinion from Dr. James Andrews in Birmingham, Ala., on Monday.

"There wasn't anything major wrong," Jeter said.

Manager Joe Torre said it's still too soon to speculate on when Jeter might be able to return. He probably will not be able to swing a bat for at least 10 days, but once he is able to do that the Yankees should have a better idea of when he'll be ready.

Atlanta scores seven in seventh

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves finally scored a run, finally hit a homer and, yes, finally got a win.

Andruw Jones hit a three-run homer and the Braves went on to score seven runs in the seventh inning, beating the Florida Marlins 12-7 on Friday night for Atlanta's first victory of the season.

The Braves started the season with three losses, getting outscored 17-2 during a sweep by Montreal.

That changed in the course of one inning, with the Braves taking out all their frustration on Marlins relievers Blaine Neal and Vladimir Nunez (0-1).

Solution from Friday's Percussion Session Crossword in the *Freedom Watch*

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

**2003 MLB standings****American League**

East	WL
(1) N.Y. Yankees	4/0
(3) Boston	4/1
Baltimore	1/3
Toronto	1/3
Tampa Bay	1/4
Central	
(2) Kansas City	4/0
(4) Minnesota	3/1
Cleveland	2/2
Chicago Sox	1/3
Detroit	0/4
West	
Oakland	2/1
(5) Anaheim	2/1
Seattle	2/2
Texas	1/3

National League

East	WL
(4) Montreal	3/1
N.Y. Mets	2/2
Philadelphia	2/2
Florida	1/3
Atlanta	1/3
Central	
(1) Pittsburgh	4/0
(3) St. Louis	3/0
(5) Houston	2/1
Chicago Cubs	2/2
Cincinnati	1/3
Milwaukee	0/4
West	
(2) San Francisco	4/0
Colorado	2/2
Los Angeles	2/2
Arizona	1/3
San Diego	1/3



By Mark Baker

Pvt. Murphy's Law

Kandahar chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 1130Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel choir practice

Tuesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox/Catholic Bible study
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice

Bagram chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers

Tuesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice
- ❖ 1500Z — Rosary and prayers

K2 chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0330Z — Liturgical service
- ❖ 0430Z, 1200Z — General protestant service
- ❖ 0600Z — Roman Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1300Z — Latter Day Saints

Monday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Midweek Praise service

Thursday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass

Friday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study

Saturday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1200Z — Roman Catholic Mass

CJCMOTF chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0630Z — Nondenominational service













Tuesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Catholic service (every other Tuesday)

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study



	Bagram	K2	Kabul	KAF
W Today	 Hi — 68F Lo — 34F	 Hi — 70F Lo — 45F	 Hi — 64F Lo — 37F	 Hi — 75F Lo — 46F
e Sunday	 Hi — 64F Lo — 39F	 Hi — 78F Lo — 45F	 Hi — 63F Lo — 39F	 Hi — 77F Lo — 48F
a Monday	 Hi — 63F Lo — 37F	 Hi — 83F Lo — 50F	 Hi — 61F Lo — 39F	 Hi — 79F Lo — 48F

KMTC chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0430Z — Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z — Roman Catholic Mass/Eucharist
- ❖ 0630Z — Latter Day Saints
- ❖ 1630Z — Protestant Service

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible Study

Friday

- ❖ 1530Z — Thank God It's Friday fellowship and singing

All events are held in FOB195 Chapel/Conference Room area.